



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration

Center for Mental Health Services
Center for Substance Abuse
Prevention
Center for Substance Abuse
Treatment
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

To celebrate the 17th annual ***National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month (Recovery Month)*** this September, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment invites you to participate in this initiative to raise awareness about the importance of treating people with substance use disorders. In addition, it is important to recognize and thank the dedicated counselors, health care providers, family member and others who have helped those in need of services to find their way.

The purpose of ***Recovery Month*** is to promote access to recovery, celebrate those in treatment, and continue to educate our communities about how to overcome the barriers of stigma and discrimination. With that in mind, this year's theme is: ***"Join the Voices for Recovery: Build a Stronger, Healthier Community."***

You will find materials in this planning toolkit that will help countless individuals and organizations share the message that recovery from substance use disorders is possible and can help improve lives and strengthen our communities. Enclosed are ideas and tips to help plan events and build community coalitions, as well as instructions on how to publicize your activities by reaching out to local media. The planning toolkit also has information that will help your organization target specific constituencies in your area.

As you begin to coordinate your ***Recovery Month*** activities, keep in mind that your efforts will be felt well beyond the month of September. ***Recovery Month*** can have a lasting impression year round. Any effort you make will contribute to a larger cause that can impact families, friends, and those already in recovery.

Charles G. Curie, M.A., A.C.S.W.
Administrator
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Sincerely,

H. Westley Clark, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., CAS, FASAM
Director
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Enclosure